in cabin ambience etc. have been taken to improve its overall functioning. Such measures are an on-going process to remain competitive and to cater to the needs of the growing air traffic.

Closure of transit rooms

1512. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India used to maintain transit rooms for ordinary passengers at Delhi and Mumbai airports since a long time;

(b) whether this facility has now been withdrawn to the ordinary public;

(c) how many transit rooms were there at both the airports respectively;

(d) why did the AAI remove these transit rooms now; and

(e) what alternative use has been given to these rooms which used to help middle class passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION J (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The facility at Mumbai Airport has been temporarily withdrawn due to development/construction activities at site.

(c) At Delhi Airport there are 9 rooms and at Mumbai Airport there were 14 rooms.

(d) and (e) This facility has been withdrawn on temporary basis as a part of modernization and the present security threat prevailing in the country.

Air India's share in cargo business

1513. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India have been trying to increase its share in cargo business by converting its passenger aircraft into freighters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is its present capacity, capacity utilization and share in the cargo business; and

(d) how its freight rates compare with other foreign airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to spurt in export cargo from India, Air India has decided to convert two of its A-310 passenger aircraft to Freighters. The first slot for conversion is from 10th January to 08th May, 2007 and the second one is from 26th January to 25th May, 2007.

(c) At present, Air India has a cargo capacity of 1281 Tonnes/week ex-India and the capacity utilization is 75%. Air India's market share at present is 9.2%.

(d) Air India offers competitive rates in the market. Rates generally are driven by market forces as well as supply and demand situation.

Resignation of Chairman of M/s Autoriders Finance Ltd.

1514. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chairman and Directors of M/s Autoriders Finance Ltd. Mumbai have submitted their resignations in Form 32 to Registrar of Companies (RoC), Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof and names of Directors who have resigned with date(s) of their resignation and submission of Form 32;

(c) whether these Directors and Chairman of the Company are involved in Rs. 50 crores UTI scam and criminal proceedings and recovery of amount in Debt Recovery Cell are pending against Directors;

(d) if so, the reasons for accepting their resignations; and

(e) whether Registrar of Companies will re-consider their resignations in consultation with UTI and CBI and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) As per records available with Registrar of Companies,